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CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLERK

October 18, 2005

Lori Rinek,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento CA 95825

John Kopchick
Contra Costa County Community Development Department
651 Pine Street, Fourth Floor North Wing
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Draft East Contra Costa County HCP

Dear Lori and John,

As the Contra Costa County Coordinator for the Coastal Conservancy, I recently reviewed portions of the Draft HCP for East Contra Costa County and discussed the plan with Nadine Hitchcock, the Program Manager for the San Francisco Bay Area Program of the Coastal Conservancy. Congratulations on an excellent job in performing the substantial amount of work to get to this point.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that the Coastal Conservancy will be able to provide the amount of funding presented on page 3 of Table 9-3. This table estimates that the Coastal Conservancy will provide \$40 million of Proposition 40 funds and \$20 million of Proposition 50 funds. These figures represent the total allocations to the San Francisco Bay Area Program of the Coastal Conservancy for these two bond measures. At this time the Coastal Conservancy has already encumbered or reserved the vast majority of this funding, with only \$1.6 million of Proposition 40 and 50 funds reserved for future projects in the area of the HCP (for the Bertagnolli acquisition and Marsh Creek restoration projects). Because we don't know what our future sources of funding will be, it is very difficult to predict how many additional funds the Coastal Conservancy will be able to dedicate to help implement the HCP. Our best guess is that, over the 30 year time period for the HCP, the Coastal Conservancy might be able to provide \$10-20 million for acquisition and restoration projects within the area of the HCP.

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Please contact me at (510) 286-4183, or adoherty@scc.ca.gov, if you have any questions.

With Best Regards,

Abe G. Doherty

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Response to Letter D, California Coastal State Conservancy

In response to the HCP/NCCP, the commenter states that it is unlikely that the Coastal Conservancy will be able to provide the HCP/NCCP with the amount of funding presented in Table 9-3 and indicating that \$10 million to \$20 million is a very rough estimate of what the Coastal Conservancy might be able to provide for acquisition and restoration programs in the HCP/NCCP area.

Table 9-3 was intended to provide a comprehensive list of funding sources that could be explored further for use with implementing the HCP/NCCP, not a specific projection of the amount of funding that could be secured for this HCP/NCCP. The funding amounts listed in that Table are described as “California Funding” and are meant to indicate the total amount of funds available to each funding program. The Table did not project that the HCP/NCCP would receive all of the \$60 million available from the Coastal Conservancy under the increments of Proposition 40 and 50 funds slated for the Bay Area Conservancy Program. The title of the Table and the way it is referenced in the text will be changed to make this clear. Also, the last column in the table, which indicates in a narrative manner funding prospects for the HCP/NCCP, will indicate that this source is nearly fully encumbered, but that \$1.6 million is budgeted for projects that may be compatible with the HCP/NCCP.

Actual funding projections are described in Table 9-8 and further explained in Appendix H. Over the 30-year term of the HCP/NCCP, maintenance of existing conservation effort is projected to yield \$85 million. This is based on an analysis of past investments, as explained in Appendix H. Of the \$85 million projected from all ongoing conservation funding sources, \$24 million is projected from ongoing state funding sources. The Coastal Conservancy is likely to be a key but not sole source of these on-going conservation funds, so the commenter’s rough estimate of \$10 to \$20 million from the Coastal Conservancy over 30 years substantiates the projection in the HCP/NCCP.

Revisions to the HCP/NCCP

The HCP/NCCP (Appendix H, and Chapter 9) have been revised to clarify these funding details.